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India batter Sneh Rana loses her stumps while giving Jess Jonassen the charge | AFP

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SAME OLD STORY OF PAIN: INDIA FALL SHORT BY FIVE RUNS

In a familiar story against Australia in World Cups, India, needing 173 to advance to the final, were in control before losing their way

LOSING FROM A COMMANDING POSITION

When Jemimah Rodrigues and Harmanpreet Kaur were batting in the middle, it felt like game over for Australia. India were cruising at 9 RPO. But then, it all came down crumbling as they always do. Rodrigues edged a bouncer to the keeper and Kaur's bat got stuck while running and was caught short. From thereon, Australia just clawed their way back.

LITTLE THINGS THE DIFFERENCE

- India, without the services of Pooja Vastrakar after an illness, will rue the missed chances. They dropped two catches and the ground fielding could have also been a touch better
- Australia, who weren't at their best, remained calm, trusted in their methods and their experience came through in the end | P19

SEVEN

THIS WILL BE AUSTRALIA'S 7TH STRAIGHT T20 WC FINAL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Raipur-bound Khera held, freed

SC directs interim bail to the Cong leader, who was arrested for his alleged insult of the PM

UJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leader Pawan Khera was on Thursday arrested over his alleged remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid high drama after he was deplaned from a flight to Raipur. However, the party quickly approached the Supreme Court, which directed his release on interim bail.

"In order to protect the petitioner until such date he applies for regular bail before the jurisdictional court upon the FIRs being transferred to one jurisdiction, the petitioner shall be released on bail by the Magistrate where he will be produced in Delhi," a bench of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and justices M R Shah and P S Narasimha said.

However, the CJI warned Khera, saying: "We have protected you, but there must be some level of discourse." Khera was then taken to the Dwarka court, which formally granted interim bail.

The drama began earlier in the day after Congress leaders, including Khera, boarded Indigo flight 6E 204 to attend the party's plenary session in Raipur that is due to begin on Friday. Khera was informed by an airline official that his baggage has some problem as it has been tagged wrongly. "I told them I am not carrying any baggage but just a single handbag," Khera said.

Nevertheless, he was asked to alight. "When I came down, I was told that I cannot go and that a Delhi Police DCP will meet me," Khera said.

A senior Delhi Police official, speaking to this newspaper, said they were acting on a request from Assam Police to assist them in arresting Khera.

A case had been lodged against him at Dima Hasao police station in Assam's Haflong district for alleged insulting remarks against the prime minister during a media briefing.

The FIR was registered under sections 53 B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national interest), 500 (punishment for defamation) and 504 (intentional insult).

Several Congress leaders staged a protest at the airport tarmac, raising slogans against the PM. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said three separate FIRs have been lodged against Khera. "These days whenever BJP wants to get any opposition leader arrested, Assam's CM gets active and an FIR is registered in some distant place in Assam. We saw the same thing happen with Jignesh Mewani," he said.

The BJP hit back saying Congress leaders should not live in this misconception that they were above the law.

Congress leaders stage a protest at Delhi's IGI Airport on Thursday after Pawan Khera was deboarded from a plane owing to an FIR against him | PTI

HOW IT HAPPENED

11 am:	Congress leaders arrive at airport to go to Raipur
11.15 am:	Pawan Khera boards the plane
11.30 am:	Khera asked to deboard
11.40 am:	Khera deplaned
11.45 am:	Police detain Khera
1.30 pm:	Khera arrested
3.00 pm:	Congress moves SC, gets interim relief
6.10 pm:	Khera granted interim bail by Dwarka court
6.30 pm:	Khera released

Pawan Khera

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman greets US Treasury Secretary Janet L Yellen during a G20 meeting in Bengaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

Global eco in better place today: Yellen

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

LAUDING collective work, US Secretary of Treasury Janet L Yellen said on Thursday that the global economy is in a better place today than many had predicted just a few months ago. Taking part in the first Finance Ministers and Central Bank Government (FMCBG) and second Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meeting held in Bengaluru as part of G20 events, Janet said, "Many were worried about a sharp economic slowdown across the world. The challenges we face are real, and the future is always uncertain. But the outlook has improved. In its most recent estimates, the IMF forecasts global growth of 3.2 per cent during 2023 – a notable upgrade from its October report."

She said the progress in the global macro economy was a result of collective work which further underscores the importance of redoubling efforts to go forward, adding, forums like the G20 were important for macroeconomic cooperation.

Janet also held a meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in which the two exchanged ideas on the finance track priorities and the energy transition partnerships. They also discussed at length the global debt vulnerabilities, crypto assets and the health sector, besides discussing lessons learnt from the pandemic and the need for enhanced preparedness to handle any such situations in future.

Janet also used the platform to say, "Tomorrow is the one-year mark of Russia's illegal and unjustified full-scale invasion of Ukraine. One year later, Putin's war has been a strategic failure for the Kremlin. Ukraine still stands and NATO and our global coalition are united behind it."

She added that the US has committed over $13 billion in humanitarian and food security assistance. It has also rallied international financial institutions to implement an action plan to address food security.

CONTINUED ON :P4

COURT ORDER

Roopa barred from making remarks about Sindhuri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a relief to IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri, a city court has issued an interim order barring IPS officer Roopa D Moudgil from making any defamatory remarks against her. The court has also issued a notice to the IGP-ranked officer to file objections before March 7.

Following Roopa making allegations against her in the public domain, the IAS officer had approached the city civil and sessions court on Wednesday, seeking direction to the IPS officer not to make allegations against her. The court had reserved the interim order till Thursday.

When the case came up for hearing, the court issued an interim order restraining Roopa from making any comment or allegation against the petitioner. Adjourning the hearing till March 7, the court also ordered to issue notice to the respondent to file objections before the next date of hearing.

Roopa took to social media and stated, "I would like to tell you all that I am extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Court for giving me the opportunity to hear me out, while not passing the order exparte. I will submit my prayer and submissions before the Hon'ble Court. Satyameva Jayate." P5

Araga: Spike in crime rate despite economic growth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ONE would believe that as education and financial status improved, crime would decline. However, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said in the state Assembly on Thursday that the state was witnessing an increase in crime rate even as education and economic conditions of the people were improving.

"It is unfortunate that as and when people are getting educated and their financial condition improves, the number of crimes are also increasing," he said while expressing concern.

Assembly Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri, too agreed, saying crimes are increasing with improvement in education.

The Home Department data shows the number of crimes, especially those registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC), went up by 14,000 every year in the last three years, while the increase was around 4,000 in cases registered under Special Local Laws (SLL) and Cyber Crimes.

The home minister also concurred with Congress MLA from Hanur, R Narendra's views on the low rate of conviction. Responding to the debate initiated by Narendra, the minister said they are taking several measures to ensure better investigation and improvement in conviction rate. Earlier, cases were coming up for trials after three years due to various reasons, including delays in getting the forensic science laboratory reports. To address that concern, the government increased the number of forensic science labs. Apart from this, the state government has also appointed Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO). P4

EXPRESS READ

No boarding facilities in SC/ST hostels, says CAG

Bengaluru: Hostels for SC/STs, constructed by the Higher Education Department, are lying vacant as no facilities for boarding have been made. The CAG report, tabled on Thursday, called the hostels "unfruitful". Even in March 2021, of the 44 hostels, only 31 were completed, although funds were released in advance | P4

Key beneficiary in Guru bank fraud arrested

Bengaluru: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has arrested Rajesh VR in the case of Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with "misappropriation of public deposits of more than ₹1,000 crore", the ED stated in an official release on Thursday | P3

MAHE suspends 42 students over drugs

With an internal probe against students under way over drug consumption, MAHE, Manipal, suspended 42 students for one month. Sources said the students were booked by Manipal police for illegal drug consumption. P3

5 KILLED AS CAR RAMS TRUCK

Four persons travelling in a car and a pedestrian died on the spot after a speeding car rammed a truck on the Belagavi-Dharwad national highway around 8 pm on Thursday. Two of the deceased, travelling in the car, are aged around 25 | P3

Biden nominates former Mastercard boss Banga as World Bank president

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

US President Joe Biden on Thursday nominated Indian-American executive and former Mastercard chief Ajay Banga (63) for the post of World Bank president. The vacancy arose after incumbent David Malpass announced his early exit last week.

Biden's surprise announcement came hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Malpas here. They discussed India's goal to achieve and sustain 8% growth as it approaches the 100th anniversary of its Independence in 2047.

The World Bank has started accepting candidate nominations, adding women candidates would be strongly encouraged.

President Biden heaped praises on Banga, saying he is uniquely equipped to lead the World Bank at this critical moment in history. "He has spent more than three decades building and managing successful, global companies that create jobs and bring investment to developing economies, and guiding organizations through periods of fundamental change," said Biden.

Ajay Banga

"Raised in India, Ajay has a unique perspective on the opportunities and challenges facing developing countries and how the World Bank can deliver," Biden added.

Born in Pune and an alumnus of St Stephen's College in Delhi and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Banga had earlier worked in top global companies such as Nestle, PepsiCo and Citi. His global recognition came when Mastercard in 2010 appointed him as president and chief executive officer. He spearheaded the payment processing company successfully for over a decade.

New IISc study could help protect aircraft from lightning

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A TEAM of IISc researchers has developed a new way to simulate how lightning hits an aircraft. The team believes this will help in providing better protection to aircraft against lightning.

Prof Udaya Kumar of IISc's Department of Electrical Engineering, who headed the team said, "Usually, an aircraft is hit by lightning once every 1,000 hours. There've been many incidents in the last century when the impact of lightning has been catastrophic." In 90 per cent of the cases, lightning strikes on an aircraft are self-invited when it is flying through a highly energised cloud which means the aircraft is the cause of the lightning strike. The research will help in understanding how the lightning disrupts the aircraft's electrical systems which could lead to catching fire or explosion.

IISc researchers carry out first-of-its-kind experiment on a Tejas aircraft to understand the effects of lightning strike on its electrical systems | EXPRESS

"Kumar and his team realised that the current approach to this identification was grossly oversimplified. They set out to develop a more comprehensive computational model which can be applied to two different aircraft geometries: A DC10 passenger aircraft and the SDM fighter aircraft model. It involves extensive computation of electric field around the aircraft and suitable modelling of the electrical discharges," an IISc statement said. "Kumar's lab has also carried out a first-of-its-kind experiment on a small military aircraft by injecting it with enormous amounts of current and by collecting data from inside the craft," the IISc stated.

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